

**Pribilof Island Restoration Advisory Board  
St. George School Science Room, St. George, Alaska  
August 3, 2005**

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**Participants**

Alvin Merculief, co-chair, City of St. George, mayor  
Bernie Denno, co-chair, NOAA  
Lori Aldrich, ADEC  
Karin Holser, Pribilof Islands Stewardship Program  
Louis Howard, ADEC  
John Lindsay, NOAA  
Andrew Malavansky, Tribal Government  
Victor F. Malavansky, City of St. George  
Bob Pawlowski, St. George Chadux  
Ilarion (Larry) Philemonoff, USEPA  
Paula Souik, NOAA  
David B. Winandy, NOAA

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Meeting called to order at 2:20 p.m.
- Max Malavansky, St. George co-chair, was not in attendance. He was off-island in Anchorage with a broken leg.
- Mayor Alvin Merculief acted as co-chair for St. George.
- Sign-in sheet was circulated.

**Distribution of Final December RAB Notes**

- Bernie Denno distributed final December RAB notes.
- Due to earlier uncertainty of holding a RAB meeting in 2005, the December 2004 RAB meeting notes were distributed for review prior to this meeting. Following a review period, the minutes were finalized.
- Alvin Merculief asked for adoption of the changes to the review process and approval of December RAB notes. He formally invoked *Robert's Rules of Order* procedures.
- Final December 2004 RAB minutes are available online at [www.response.restoration.noaa.gov/rab/](http://www.response.restoration.noaa.gov/rab/).

**Review of Meeting Agenda**

There were no comments on or additions to the agenda.

**Proposed Long-Term Groundwater Monitoring Plan**

- The draft plan was presented to the RAB; it was noted that hardcopies of the draft plan had been distributed 2-3 weeks prior to this RAB. The presentation highlights are noted below.
- There were 47 monitoring wells (MWs) around the village.
- For a minimum of four sampling events, there were no groundwater contaminants outside of the industrial waterfront area.
- MWs planned for decommissioning and removal according to the plan are not needed and present a liability (*i.e.*, act as a potential conduit for the delivery of contamination to groundwater). MWs may also impede land use.
- Refer to the long-term groundwater monitoring plan, or a copy of NOAA's RAB meeting presentation, for maps of the MWs NOAA plans to either retain or decommission.
- Free product plumes have been detected at two Two-Party Agreement (TPA) sites—the Former Diesel Tank Farm (TPA Site 1) and the Active Power Plant (TPA Site 8).

- Ten (10) MWs that surround the estimated plume locations and have several quarters of sampling with no free product detected will be retained to monitor for migration of the petroleum plumes (*i.e.*, they will serve as sentinel wells).
- Fifteen (15) MWs in the vicinity of the plumes (that either have free product in them or are not positioned for plume monitoring) will be retained for possible use during free product removal.
- Twenty-two (22) MWs will be decommissioned. These MWs are located outside of the industrial waterfront area and no contaminants have been detected in them above the ADEC groundwater cleanup levels.
- Retained MWs will be monitored for at least 5 years. Monitored analytes will be those previously found, including gasoline range organics (GRO), diesel range organics (DRO), benzene, perchloroethylene (PCE).
- There is no known source for PCE. It was only detected during one sampling event (May 2004) in one well (TPA8-MW-2) slightly above the ADEC cleanup level. NOAA will monitor this MW as well as a nearby MW (TPA8-MW-4) to watch for trends.
- NOAA's responsibility for groundwater monitoring will eventually be transferred within the agency, from the NOAA Pribilof Project Office to NOAA Safety and Environmental Compliance Office (SECO).

*Comment:* Louis Howard stated that the period of monitoring will be longer than five years. The monitoring will be reevaluated every five years. Perhaps monitoring could continue for up to 25 years. Depending upon monitoring results and trends, ADEC may allow a reduction in the frequency of sampling.

*Comment:* Alvin Mercurief and Ilarion (Larry) Philemonof both requested that the scoria access roads to the MWs be removed when the MWs are decommissioned.

*Response:* John Lindsay, NOAA Project Manager, said the roads could be removed next year if NOAA Pribilof Project Office receives program funding. He also indicated that NOAA may decommission and remove MWs during the remainder of 2005.

#### **Petroleum-Contaminated Soil (PCS) Disposal and Relocation Update**

- The City and NOAA consummated an agreement to use PCS at the new landfill for cover material. NOAA awarded a purchase order to the City to relocate the PCS. The agreement between the City and NOAA also includes NOAA excessing two pieces of its equipment (Caterpillar D5M bulldozer and the John Deere 624J wheeled front-end loader) to the City once NOAA completes all cleanup work. NOAA will also forgive the old "in kind account" loan to the City regarding a past petroleum fuel purchase [Stipulated Agreement for Consent to Judgment and Compromise Settlement (Civil Case No. A92-002)]. Finally, though NOAA was not initially intending to extend the landfill redevelopment grant, the Office of Response and Restoration worked with the NOAA Grants Management Division (GMD) to extend the grant and they have verbally agreed. All parties are awaiting NOAA GMD action.
- The City intends to use a portion of the grant funds to repair heavy equipment needed for the landfill project.
- NOAA has offered 1,500 cubic yards of scoria to the City for a working pad on the west side of the new landfill. John Lindsay noted that all parties needed to verify who is responsible for moving this scoria.
- ADEC approved the transport of PCS from the NOAA PCS stockpile to the landfill without the use of dump bed covers as long as loading, speed, and driving condition restrictions are observed.

*Question:* Who owns and pays for the scoria royalties?

*Response:* John Lindsay stated that NOAA pays for the royalties.

*Question:* Does the PCS to be transported to the new landfill exceed ADEC regulations?

*Response:* Louis Howard stated the PCS is permissible for use in a commercial or industrial setting, such as land spreading or use as cover material at the landfill. The PCS would be above ADEC regulations if it were left in a residential area.

*Comment:* NOAA completed an environmental assessment (EA) that reviewed 12-13 methods regarding the disposition of the PCS. The draft EA was sent out some time ago. The EA relied in part on a model

that addressed how long it would take for petroleum constituents to reach groundwater, and studies on risks to humans and seals.

*Comment:* Louis Howard stated that the ADEC risk assessor reviewed the EA and found its conclusions acceptable.

*Question:* Bob Pawlowski asked if Knik's 30-cubic yard dump truck or dump trailers were used for the same project, could the dump bed cover waiver be applied to this equipment.

*Response:* Louis Howard said the waiver could be applied.

### **Update on Remaining Field Activities**

#### **Groundwater Monitoring**

NOAA will not start the monitoring until it obtains funding. The monitoring would start next spring/summer at the earliest.

*Question:* How much will the groundwater monitoring cost?

*Response:* NOAA estimated that it would cost approximately \$1 million per year if all wells require sampling.

*Question:* What contractor will be used? Has anyone been selected?

*Response:* NOAA has not selected a contractor.

*Question:* Andrew Malavansky runs an environmental firm. Could he and a local crew do the sampling and monitoring?

*Response:* Louis Howard provided the ADEC requirements for being a qualified sampler (*i.e.*, bachelor's degree, 1-year professional experience).

*Comment:* Alvin Merculief commented that he is trying to get everyone to think locally regarding jobs.

*Comment:* Bob Pawlowski said that's why Tanaq has agreements with Tetra Tech EM Inc. They are setting the groundwater monitoring for local work via mentoring.

#### **Remaining Sites to Clean Up**

- NOAA has six more sites to clean up:
  - Former Diesel Tank Farm
  - Drum Storage Area
  - E-W Fuel Supply Line
  - PCS Stockpile
  - Free-Product Plume, Ocean Front
  - Free Product Plume, Power Plant
- NOAA is hoping for congressional authorization and funding for clean up in FY2006.
- NOAA would clean up PCS at the Former Diesel Tank Farm before starting groundwater clean up in the area.

*Comment:* Bob Pawlowski said that in discussions with the Alaskan congressional delegation, and as a representative of St. George Tanaq Corporation/St. George Chadux Corporation, he asked that NOAA be funded \$5.5 million over 2 years for St. George Island cleanup, only to meet TPA requirements and fulfill the scope of the task order contract awarded last year.

#### **Groundwater Treatment/Free Product Removal**

- Chadux provided removal/cleanup alternatives in a report.
- NOAA has decided on its preferred design for groundwater clean up. NOAA has provided funds to Chadux to complete the design for implementation.
- ADEC must still approve the selected alternative and design.
- The plan should be complete next spring.
- Once the groundwater treatment system is set up and operating, then its classification within NOAA transfers from cleanup to operations and maintenance. At that time, the responsibility for it is transferred from NOAA Pribilof Project Office to NOAA Safety and Environmental Compliance Office, under Bernie Denno.

- The timing of the treatment implementation depends upon whether NOAA is authorized and receives funding in fiscal year 2006.
- NOAA may begin decommissioning wells right away. Funding is available for this.

#### Old Landfill Closure

- NOAA previously closed the old landfill. The City continues to use one small section for open burning and burial of the residual debris. The impermeable cap under this section has been damaged and must be repaired.
- ADEC requires the City to cease open burning of wastes.
- NOAA may assist the City closeout its old landfill per the recent Agreement with the City. Anything atop the existing landfill impermeable cap will need to be moved to the new landfill site. The City and not NOAA is responsible for repairing the cap and ensuring restoration of the overlying protective layers.

*Question:* What about metal above the cap and addressing the debris, scrap metal, abandoned vehicles and equipment in the gray pit rock quarry, east of the old landfill?

*Response:* NOAA has funded and conducted at least two debris hauls from the island. The debris and scrap metal in the gray pit was not generated by the federal government. NOAA has hauled off scrap metal and debris associated with or generated by its on-island project work. In recent discussions between NOAA and the City, the parties agreed that NOAA would not remove debris and scrap metal from gray pit again.

#### Old Paint Shop Lead Sampling

Earlier this summer (2005), NOAA took samples at the site. The highest lead concentration detected was 288 mg/kg. This is below the ADEC residential cleanup level of 400 mg/kg. NOAA intends no further actions.

#### **NOAA Updates**

##### Introduction to the New Office of Response and Restoration (ORR) Web Site

- NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration is updating its entire Web site. The Pribilofs Web site is included in the update. The Web site is being refined currently and its launch is expected in the next few weeks.
- The address will remain the same (<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov>).
- Cleanup information will be found under *Pollutants in the Environment/Integrating Remediation and Restoration*.
- RAB information will be found under *Serving Communities/Supporting Local and Regional Decision Making*.
- The RAB Web site direct address is [www.response.restoration.noaa.gov/rab/](http://www.response.restoration.noaa.gov/rab/). This contains access to meeting schedules, member contact information, meeting documents, charter and bylaws, and background documents.
- Laura Johnson is the NOAA contact for maintaining the RAB items on the Web ([laura.johnson@noaa.gov](mailto:laura.johnson@noaa.gov)).
- The Web site has a quick search box.

##### Administrative Record Update

- The purpose of the administrative record is to provide the public with access to decision-making documents regarding the cleanup of sites on the island.
- The administrative record will be located in the Traditional Council's office and may be looked at on-site, but may not leave the site.
- The administrative record includes: legal authorities, RAB documents, agreements and correspondence with various parties, contractual documents, media articles, reference and background documents, Pribilof-wide files, and island-specific documents.
- Documents are from 1989 on, though some are historic documents. The administrative record is currently complete through 2004.
- Approximately 20 linear feet of documents will be on shelves.
- The administrative record will be updated annually.

- There will be an index and a database on a DVD. A briefing on the index was provided. A computer will be available on-site to run the database.
- There will also be repositories at ARLIS in Anchorage, National Archives and Records Administration in Seattle, and on St. Paul in the tribal government's office.

*Comment:* There is interest in having PDF files available with the administrative record.

*Response:* NOAA has existing PDF files for many of the documents. These will be included in the administrative record database.

### **Preserve America Initiative**

- The Preserve America Initiative is a result of an Executive Order that calls on federal agencies to 1) preserve and highlight historical resources, and 2) foster heritage tourism in the US.
- NOAA responded by initiating an internal a mini-grant program.
- The grant program encouraged federal, state, local, tribal, and non-profit partnerships.
- NOAA Pribilof Project Office submitted a proposal to develop an interpretive display at the St. George Sealing Plant, and the proposal was accepted.
- The grant funding will be used to enlarge and mount historic photographs and to create interpretive signage and a video display.
- NOAA received letters in support of the grant proposal from the Traditional Council, Tanaq, Pribilof Islands Stewardship Program, National Park Service, and Congressman Young.
- A packet containing copies of historical photographs was distributed at the meeting. Paula Souik asked for feedback and information on the photographs. She indicated that the display would not only represent sealing, but also general life on St. George. She stated that NOAA wants to know what aspects are important to residents on St. George.
- The money for project is to be spent by end of September 2005, so NOAA and partners need to move quickly in obtaining and selecting photos. Questions and input on the Preserve America Initiative and the photographs should go directly to Paula Souik (paula.souik@noaa.gov).

*Comment:* Bob Pawlowski, under Tanaq, said he has been working to obtain historically related grants. Tanaq received a \$34K grant from the State of Alaska Historic Preservation Office for a preliminary design assessment to develop a construction cost estimate for restoration of eight buildings within the National Historic Landmark. Information from this assessment will be used to draft future construction requests. Bob, under Tanaq, also submitted for a Brownfield Assessment Grant for assessing lead around five of the building's foundations. Notification is expected in September.

### **Public Comments**

#### RAB membership

Andrew Malavansky brought up the topic of vacant RAB positions (*i.e.*, the Pribilof School District and St. George at-large positions). A motion was made to appoint Ilarion (Larry) Philemonof, newly in the USEPA funded environmental position collocated with the Traditional Council, to the at-large position. The motion carried and was seconded. Larry Philemonof is now a St. George at-large RAB member.

#### St. George solid waste plan and facilities

Larry Philemonof asked if there was to be a hazardous waste management building at the new landfill when it is completed. John Lindsay said NOAA would not be providing one. Andrew Malavansky said the hazardous waste building is unfunded, though it is a part of the City's solid waste management plan. Larry requested a copy of the City's plan to take with him to King Cove for solid waste training.

#### City building storing waste oil

Karin Holser commented that while attention is given to previously spilled petroleum products, the City's blue building located west of town near the seal rookery is in severe disrepair and is full of stacked, rusting drums. The drums are apparently filled with waste oil from the past 10-15 years. This could become a worse issue than what NOAA has addressed/is addressing as the oil will flow downhill to fur seal rookery if the drums break. It is a City responsibility now, but could become a NOAA problem if it spreads. Larry Philemonof concurred that drums, numbering over 100, are stacked three high. They have rusty bottoms and are waiting to burst.

Bernie Denno indicated he thought this was a City and State issue.

Lori Aldrich said the Solid Waste Alliance Network (SWAN) has a lot of good ideas and experts. She said she could help the City establish contacts. Lori and Louis Howard indicated that there is no State waste oil or RCRA program. It still is a USEPA program.

Karin Holser asked what happened to the NOAA waste oil heater and why the City couldn't accept and burn used oil. David Winandy said NOAA retrograded the SmartAsh burner to Seattle. Alvin Merculief said the City's waste oil burner doesn't work, the used oil is not segregated when collected, and if drum contents were used in a waste oil burner, it could blow up. This has happened with the City's Smart Ash burner in the past.

Enhanced thermal conduction (ETC) system storage or disposition

Bob Pawlowski asked what NOAA's plans are for the ETC system. John Lindsay asked for clarification as to why Bob was asking. Bob said he wanted NOAA to know there were several barges planned (to arrive at St. George later this summer and in early fall). NOAA could potentially use one of these barges to retrograde the system. David Winandy indicated that NOAA planned to remove all containers and flat racks at the St. George Harbor later in the month via a Northland Services Inc. barge.

**Closing Remarks**

Many thanks to Mayor Alvin Merculief who kept the meeting procedurally within the established meeting framework.

NOAA Pribilof Project Office hopes to be back on the islands in April 2006. The budget will be out by then, and NOAA will know what project work will be possible and when the next RAB meeting can be held.

Draft meeting minutes will be distributed to RAB members and meeting attendees. Final RAB meeting minutes and all presentations will be placed on the NOAA RAB Web site.

**Tentative Date for Next Meeting**

Tentative plans are to hold the next RAB meeting on-island in April 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.